



# Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board



## Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sisters Cities Board for March 2, 2011

The meeting was called to order at Noon on March 2, 2011, by Chairperson Takako Wakita. The Chair asked the Secretary to call the Roll.

Members attending were: Takako Wakita, Chairperson; Wayne Hewitt, Vice Chairperson; Janet Baker, Recording Secretary; Marianne Freeman, Dingle, Ireland; David Gorbet, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Jaime Sodusta, San Juan, Phillipines; Gary Maxwell, Toba, Japan; Dean Gastouniotis, Patras, Greece. Guests: Barbara Ellis, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico (Alt.), Jemmi Irabon, San Juan, Phillipines (Alt.), Frank Tripicchio, SCI Board Member and Linda Gunther, Staff Representative. Members absent: Linda Mathews, Toba, Japan, Joe Cantrell, Weihai, China and George Lilly, Kotor, Montenegro.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** On a motion duly made, seconded and carried the minutes of the January 12, 2011 were approved as corrected.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Takako reported on an article in the Santa Ynez newspaper regarding the Sister Cities Program which she E-Mailed to all Board Members. Jaime Sodusta said he forwarded the article to his members and some potential members and got five new members as a result.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Takako introduced Frank Tripicchio, SCI Board Member from Bakersfield who requested consideration by the Board for approval of a Sister City in Ceprarico, Italy, a town of approximately 13,000 population and geographical location similar to Santa Barbara. Takako explained this request has to go through proper procedures before it could be considered by this Board. It was explained that he would have to establish a working group here and in Italy to be considered. Barbara Ellis suggested he contact one of the local Italian clubs to find out if there is any interest.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2011:** Review of the Calendar of Events for 2011 with the following additions: March 3-5, SCI Conference in Arlington, Va., Linda Mathews is attending. March 6, Toba, Japan, New Year's Party; April 14, Puerto Vallarta, Showcase of Young Artists; May 26-31 Visitation to Dingle, Ireland; May 30, I Madonnari at the Old Mission, an artist from Puerto Vallarta will be painting a square.

**LIBRARY DISPLAY CASE FOR MONTH OF MARCH:** Takako apologized for the confusion on getting the display set up, she explained the delay was caused by the previous month's people had not removed their display which prevented us from setting up on time, but she said the display turned out great and she thanked those who participated for their help and patience.

**STATUS OF SAN JUAN, PHILLIPINES SISTER CITY:** Jaime Sodusta requested the Board to reconsider the decision to dissolve this Sister City and he presented copies of an 11 page document to the Board members detailing their plans for reactivating and reorganizing this group. He thanked the Board for the "wake up" call and apologized for their inactivity for the past year and not responding to the Boards attempts to find out what their problems were and asked that they be given another chance to prove themselves. After due discussion the Board decided to let them remain as a Sister City.

**9-11 CONCERT SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2011 AT UNITARIAN SOCIETY:** Takako reported that she had confirmed with the Unitarian Society that we will be having the Concert with them the same as last year. Takako asked everyone to be thinking of some entertainment for the event and this will be discussed at the May meeting.

**PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY TV (Channel 17):** No report as Joe and Linda were not present.

**REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:**

**San Juan, Phillipines:** Jaime referred to his report earlier in the meeting.

**Dingle, Ireland:** Marianne Freeman reported they had to cancel their February dinner meeting due to lack of participation and she said they are considering meeting in one of the Public meeting rooms and not have a meal. She said that Erin Graffy is still working on a trip to Dingle for the group the end of May.

**Puerto Vallarta, Mexico:** Dave Gorbet reported that they had notified their Sister City group in Puerto Vallarta of Mayor Schneider's plans to be in Puerto Vallarta on vacation and they plan to greet her and have her as their guest at the installation dinner for their new Board. Also, the Santa Barbara group sponsored a Mexican Rodeo at Earl Warren in February as a fundraiser for the Student Exchange program and made \$1,000. They plan to have another fundraiser next year.

**Toba, Japan:** Gary Maxwell reported that they will be celebrating the Japanese New Year on March 5<sup>th</sup>. There will be a demo of sushi cooking and a display of Japanese dolls and kimonos. You can contact him or Takako if you are interested in attending. Also, they are planning an auto trip to Los Angeles on March 12 to the Japanese Cultural Center. Plans are beginning for a trip to Japan in October or November which will not be a guided tour (you be on your own) to visit Kyoto and Toba. They are working on the Student Exchange which takes place late July and early August.

**Patras, Greece:** Dean Gastouniotis reported they will be holding a Board meeting on March 10th at his home. He said a representative from their group is in Patras now and he reported that the newly elected Mayor is very busy and has assigned the Vice Mayor to handle the Sister City program. Dean said he will have a list of their new Board members at the May meeting.

**Weihai, China:** No representative present.

**Kotor, Montenegro:** No representative present.

There being no further business to come before this Board the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Baker, Recording Secretary